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250 Spencer Street, Melbourne, ph. 60 0421

60 cents



Stuart Baxter heads clear for South Melbourne, against Sydney City's Terry Smith who turned down a \$10,000 transfer offer from APIA last week.

'Roo today, gone tomorrow?

By Kyle Patterson

Rugged South Melbourne defender Stuart Baxter, named by Rudi Gutendorf only last week as a certainty for the Socceroo tour of Asia may quit Australia.

Baxter is caught between obligations to his family and his professional ambition, but he will forego the chance to play in the World Cup if his family's welfare is in question.

"It boils down to this: Unless Baxter is offered enough money to stay in this country, he will go to either Holland or the United States for a better contract."

"I don't want to sound like a mercenary," said Baxter, "but I'm a professional and I must look after my family."

"Playing for Australia against Czechoslovakia, England and Scotland next year is a great temptation but I can't feed my family by playing for the national team."

Baxter has been asked by the Australian Soccer Federation and national coach Rudi Gutendorf to commit himself one way or

the other. He must be naturalised if he decides to stay.

The 25-year-old Englishman hopes to determine the first stage of his future plans within a week. He will talk to South Melbourne about his future with the club.

"I haven't been happy with a lot of things at South Melbourne but basically it's a good club," he said. "I'd like to stay, providing South Melbourne makes the right offer."

Regardless of what decision comes out of Baxter's talks with South over the next two weeks, he and his family will return to England at the end of the year. It will then be a matter of returning to Australia, or going on to Holland or the U.S.

"My agreement with South Melbourne puts me on a free transfer if I don't return to Australia," said Stuart. "If I decide to leave South Melbourne, being in England will put pressure on the club to place a reasonable fee on my head for the Australian market."

"If South Melbourne puts a ridiculous price tag on me, the club would risk not getting a cent."

Rudi Gutendorf indicated he would strive to find Baxter an Australian club when he returned to England, in the case of South Melbourne failing to offer Baxter the contract he wants.

Gutendorf obviously has Baxter earmarked for his World Cup team, but Baxter knows the national supremo can't guarantee him, or any other player, a regular place in the Socceroo XI.

"The only reason I want to settle in Australia is to be in the running for international games," admitted Baxter. "If I didn't think I would be a regular in the team I wouldn't stay."

"I stay in Australia, I'm backing myself to get into the team against all the other players who are just as confident of being regulars."

While Holland and the U.S. can offer Baxter similar or better financial rewards as Australia, the chances to play international soccer aren't the same.

• Continued page 3

Record breakers!



• PELE



"The General", Mimis Domazos (right) congratulates Thomas Mavros who has just scored for AEK Athens.

AEK Athens arrives on Saturday as the most expensive soccer team to have visited Australia.

The tour will cost \$150,000 in travel expenses and match fees for three games.

Mr Arch Tambakis of TCB Promotions, which is handling the tour, said AEK's match against Victoria on Sunday would contribute about \$65,000 towards the total cost of the tour.

This is at least \$20,000 more than the fee paid to Pele's club FC Santos of Brazil for its match against Victoria in 1975.

AEK's other two games are against South Australia in Adelaide next Wednesday night and against NSW in Sydney on Sunday week.

"AEK will be here not for a holiday or a fast buck but as part of the preparation for its European Cup challenge," Mr Tambakis said.

"And because 200,000 Greek migrants make Melbourne the third biggest Greek city in the world, we are confident that the tour will be a resounding success."

AEK, which has drawn Argos Pitesti of Romania in the first round of the European Champions' Cup, has at least four players of international class.

They are Thomas Mavros, Yugoslav internationals Dusan Bajevic and Franjo Vladic and the legendary Mimis Domazos, considered to be the greatest Greek player of all time.

NZ BLAST: GO JUMP IN LAKE

The Australian Soccer Federation has been told to go and 'jump in the lake' by Charlie Dempsey, the tour director of the New Zealand Football Association.

Mr. Dempsey is angry over Australia's reluctance to arrange a return match with New Zealand after the international in Auckland earlier this season. He reckons the Australians are scared of losing on their own soil.

"Quite obviously we've got a good team, and if New Zealand beat Australia I think coach Rudi Gutendorf would be looking for a new job," said Dempsey.

ASF president Sir Arthur George said injuries and problems relating to the release of players made it impossible to fix a date for the match.

Meanwhile, the Socceroo proposed tour of China is in jeopardy because the Chinese want to bring forward the trip to avoid China's severe winter weather.

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PSL STANDINGS

	HOME			AWAY									
	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Gls	BP	TP
MARCONI	4	4	2	19	15	7	2	1	26	8	45-23	4	32
BRISBANE CITY	6	2	2	15	6	4	3	3	14	15	29-21	1	26
★ SYDNEY CITY	5	0	4	20	16	6	2	2	16	7	36-23	1	25
ADELAIDE CITY	3	3	3	11	12	6	3	2	23	12	34-24	1	25
Newcastle KB Utd	5	3	2	17	9	3	4	3	13	14	30-23	0	23
West Adelaide	6	2	3	17	9	3	2	4	9	15	26-24	1	23
★★ Heidelberg Utd	4	3	1	13	8	4	2	4	16	14	29-22	1	22
APIA-Leichhardt	4	2	4	13	12	5	1	4	11	12	24-24	0	21
Canberra City	2	4	3	9	12	4	3	4	13	14	22-26	0	19
Sydney Olympic	2	2	6	8	13	5	1	4	14	11	22-24	0	17
★ Footscray JUST	4	1	6	12	18	2	1	5	7	14	19-32	0	14
★ Brisbane Lions	3	0	7	13	23	3	2	4	7	11	20-34	0	14
★ St George BSC	2	2	5	9	17	2	2	6	12	21	21-38	0	12
South Melbourne	3	1	7	14	17	1	1	7	5	21	19-37	0	10

★ One match in hand. ★★ Two matches in hand.

PHILIPS LEAGUE TEAM OF WEEK

In brackets: No. of appearances in this team.

LOWNDES (2)
(Brisb.L.)

PERRY (6) (Brisb.C)	PRSKALO (3) (Marconi)	RUSSELL (1) (Marconi)	CURRAN (3) (Newc)
J.CAMPBELL (4) (H'berg)	MUNIZ (3) (Adel.C)	PERIN (1) (Adel.C)	LUTTON (1) (Sth.Melb)
COTTON (1) (St.George)	KRNCEVIC (4) (Marconi)		

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Player of the Year award

As last year, the best player in the national league and a companion will fly to Europe with Yugoslav Airlines.

All players will receive votes out of 10 every week and the winner will be the player with the highest AVERAGE, providing he has played at least 20 games.

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THIS WEEK'S VOTES

BRISBANE CITY 0 BRISBANE LIONS 0. Ratings by Bruce Waddell.

CITY - Wishart 9, Perry 9, Ratcliffe 8, Potter 8, Wilkinson 8, Pimblett 7, Coyne 8, Low 7 (Gaffney, 65th), Caldwell 7 (Brusasco, 65th), Campbell 9, Kelso 6.

LIONS - Lowndes 9, Wallace 6 (Lazlo, 55th), Lawrie 8, Bennett 8, Lavelle 8, Hermitage 8, Ogden 6, Hughes 8, Branford 8, McLean 8, McLean 8, McLean 8.

APIA 3 CANBERRA 0. Ratings by Mike Johnson:

APIA: Woodhouse 8, Pullen 8, Dempsey 8, Wilson 7, O'Donnell 8, McGinn 8, Stone 7, Butler 8, Reed 8, Roberts 7 (Drews 79th), Vernon 8.

CANBERRA: Hoszowski 8, Moula 8, Milovanovic 8, Brown 8, Kavaleva 8, Cant 6 (Grujicic 79th), Farrell 8, Davies 7, Bailey 5 (Lustica 60th), Byrne 7, MacLean 6.

NEWCASTLE KB UTD 0 HEIDELBERG UTD 3. Ratings by Joe Lanzoni:

NEWCASTLE: Dando 7, Willis 7, Drinkwater 8, Summerscales 7, Curran 8, Sonkalo 8, Bartogna 8, McClelland 7, Hays 7, Boden 7, Tredinnick 8.

HEIDELBERG: Banovic 7, McMillan 7, Bannon 6, Provan 6, Tansey 7, Campbell 9, Taylor 6, Rooney 7, Cole 8, Paton 7, Buljevic 8.

MARCONI 1 CANBERRA 1. Ratings by Alex Vesic:

MARCONI: Maher 7, Berry 6 (Brooks 78th), Prskalo 8, Russell 7, Degney 7, Lindsay 6 (Mariani 70th), Vieri 8, Henderson 7, Kronevic 7, Jankovic 7, Sharne 7.

CANBERRA CITY: Hoszowski 8, Moula 7, Milovanovic 7, Kavaleva 7, Farrell 7, Brown 7, Callaghan 6 (Bailey 82th), Cant 7, McLaren 8, Davies 8, Byrne 8.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 ADELAIDE CITY 2. Ratings by Alex Vesic:

OLYMPIC: P. Wilson 7, Rowden 6, Bell 7, K. Wilson 7, Cross 6, Morris 5, Rakopoulos 6, Jennings 6, Laing 6, Scott 6 (Karaepoulos 76th), Eaton 6 (McIntosh 60th).

ADELAIDE CITY: Marshall 7, Russell 8, Parin 9, Dodds 7, Bugsy, Nyskohus 7, Marwa 7, Muniz 9, Northcote 8, Deans 6 (Villani 68th), John Nyskohus 8, Kent 7.

WEST ADELAIDE 0 SYDNEY CITY 2 Ratings by Meno Toutsidis:

WEST ADELAIDE: Crook 8, Tymczyszyn 6, Pantareas 6, Dooley 7, Pillans 6 (Fernandez), Jonas 7, Boyle 6 (McCullagh), Keating 7, Norris 6, Honeyman 7, McGregor 7.

SYDNEY CITY: Clarke 8, Mullen 7, Bruce 7, Kenshaw 7, Gomez 6, Petikas 7, Souness 7, Barnes 7, Silva 7, Campbell 8, Stevenson 7.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 MARCONI 2. Ratings by Laurie Schweb:

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Laumets 5, Pye 7, Kafalatidis 7, Kyriakouloas 8, Turner 8, Wright 7, Christopoulos 7, Lutton 9, Ristovski 7, Evans 8, Campbell 7.

MARCONI: Maher 6, Berry 6 (Brooks 78th), Russell 8, Prskalo 8, Degney 7, Henderson 9, Vieri 7, Lindsay 7, Sharne 6 (inj. sub. Mariani 63rd), Kronevic 9, Jankovic 6.

FOOTSCRAY 1 ST. GEORGE 3. Ratings by Kyle Patterson:

FOOTSCRAY: P. Wilson 7, P. Wilson 7, O'Reilly 6, Kondaros 6, Jovicic 5 (Vasic 61st min). Pisciano 6, Illoski 6, Jovanovic 6, Palinkas 6, Ollerton 7, Lujic 8.

ST. GEORGE: Fraser 8, Harris 7, Uijesnovic 6, Grossie 8, O'Shea 6, J. O'Shea 6, Gravell 7, Mihajlovic 5, Cotton 9, Pennothy 9, O'Connor 8.

Leading averages:

7.8 Crook (WA).

7.8 Potter (BC), Prskalo (Marc).

7.7 Woodhouse (APIA), Perry, Ratcliffe (BC).

7.6 J. Campbell, Rooney, Buljevic (H'berg), Davidson (SM), S. O'Connor (SC), Meier (SO).

7.5 Wilkinson (BC), Hermiston (BL), Drinkwater (Newc), Henderson, Jankovic (Marc), Clarke (SC), Bell (SO).

7.4 Butler (APIA), Brown, Stark, Davies (Can), Kondaros, Lujic (Foots), Curran, Summerscales, Boden (Newc), Kronevic, Sharne (Marc), Pye (SM), Watson (SC), Rakopoulos (SO).

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COURAGE TOP SCORER AWARD

Progressive list --
13. Jankovic (Marc).
11. Krnecic (Marc).
10. Smith (SC).
9. Low (BC), Brennan (BL), T. Byrne (Can).
8. Deans (AC), Cole (H'berg).
7. Reed (APIA), Drinkwater (Newc), Sharne (Marc), Norris Kosmina (WA).
6. Kent, J. Nyakohus (AC), Keiso (BC), Picioane (Fooths), Cotton (St.G), Barnes, Watson (SC), Eaton (SO).
5. Buljevic (H'berg), Boden, Heys (Newc), P. O'Connor (St.G), Evans (SM), Stevenson (SC).

\$750 cash from Courage Breweries for the top scorer in the Philips League (goals in finals and Cup games will count in case of a tie).

4. Caldwell (BC), Ristovski (SM), Taylor, Peton (H'berg), Lutton (SM), Souness (SC), Jennings (SO), Butler (APIA).
3. Marve, Northcote, Villani (AC), Coyne (BC), Grujicic (Can), Olertor (Fooths), Curran, Summerscales (Newc), G. Byrne, Mariani, Henderson (Marc), J. O'Shea (St.G), Pillans, Boyle (WA).

Newcastle, Adelaide City for Cup final

By LAURIE SCHWAB
and JACK MATTHEWS

The Philips Cup semi-finals dominate top soccer this week, but there are also two extremely important league matches on Friday night in Melbourne and Sunday afternoon in Sydney.

The Melbourne match is vital to the top-four aspirations of Heidelberg United and to Footscray's J.Y.U.S.T.'s fight for survival.

Footscray will be strengthened by the return of Mirko Ruvacic and Andrija Ristic whose absence due to suspension contributed to the team's 1-3 loss to St. George last Sunday.

The match in Sydney is West Adelaide's last chance to stay in the running for a place in the top four, but Marconi should win, especially since Gary Byrne is back after suspension.

"We missed Gary's steading influence in midfield against South Melbourne," Marconi coach Les Scheffug said.

Sharne could play

From page one

"Without sounding big-headed, I find it hard to play in front of a 1000 people in a low-standard competition. I'm not criticising the Philips League, but some of the games are played with a 'couldn't care less' attitude," he said.

Baxter's family — his wife Sandy, son Lee, 8, and daughter Kelly, 6 months — has shifted from England to Sweden and the U.S., back to England before finally arriving in Australia.

Shurt now wants to settle down in the U.S. or some other part of the world.

Baxter, who has played around 50 games for South Melbourne since arriving from Swedish club Helsingborg in early 1978, said the players must accept most of the re-

Previous results of Marconi v. West Adelaide games: 1977: Marc 2-1, 1-0; 1976: Marc 2-0, WA 2-1; 1970: Marc 2-1.

Previous results of Heidelberg v. Footscray games: 1977: H'berg 2-0, 3-1; 1978: Footsc. 2-1; 1979: 2-2.

NEWCASTLE v ST. GEORGE

It is anticipated that the attendance at the International Sports Centre for the Philips Cup semi-final on Sunday between Newcastle KB United and St. George will produce another record for the club.

The match has been magnificently promoted and is causing considerable interest in the North — not only among those who regularly follow the game but also among those

who follow other codes of football.

The Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Ald. Joy Cummings, and the Mayor of Lake Macquarie Council will be present. Ald. Cummings is a fervent Newcastle KB United supporter.

ADELAIDE C. v CANBERRA

Newcastle City broke its long run without victory by beating Sydney Olympic after a hard battle last weekend, and should maintain the good work

by winning its Cup semi-final against Canberra City at the Olympic Sports Field on Sunday.

Sunday's game is tailor-made for Dixie Deans. He is a big-match player who will relish the sense of occasion and the big crowd that is sure to roll up at the Sports Field.

And yet Rale Rasic will probably try also to find a spot for Robert Marwe whose strength and height would be valuable against Canberra's John Brown and Mike Milovanovic.

With it. They put pressure on the administration.

"The team hasn't done itself justice," he admitted. "At the start of the year, I honestly thought we could win the league and still think we have better players than most clubs."

"The players have been born down on form, but there's more to it than going onto the field and giving bad passes or missing tackles. A lot of things happened off the field, but I can't really talk about that."

One such 'outside interference' has been the quick succession of coaches at South Melbourne this season.

"Changing coaches wasn't good for the players," said Baxter, "but it's a very difficult situation for a club. The supporters have a lot to do

players but it improves them and gives them a chance if they have ambitions to play professional soccer."

Baxter, born in Birmingham, England, has been a professional for nine years.

He started with Preston North End as a 14-year-old apprentice. He served three years before signing as a full pro.

Baxter's father was a coach with Aston Villa, which gave Stuart the chance to get some first-class advice as a youngster.

After signing with Preston as a professional, he immediately won a place in the first team. In three seasons he played 80 games, many of them under coach Bobby Charlton.

When Preston was faced with a money shortage, it loaned Baxter to Blackpool, the Second Division club, to generate cash.

While on loan to Blackpool, Baxter met Brian Birch, who persuaded him to try his luck in Sweden.

Birch, who is now coaching in Greece, took Baxter from Preston to Helsingborg in Sweden for a \$16,000 fee.

Baxter said his two years in Sweden improved him greatly as a player.

"I was used to the English First Division, which was all big balls, wallop," said Stuart. "In Sweden the game is very technical, and I hardly get a kick in my first couple of games."

During the close season in Sweden, Baxter journeyed to the United States to play with the Oakland Stompers.

He returned to Europe and was contacted by Dave MacLaren, who enticed him to Australia.

PHILIPS LEAGUE BEST GOALKEEPER AWARD

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The "Soccer Action" goalkeeper of the year will receive a Seiko watch from Konstantine's Jewel Box, Melbourne.

The winner will be the goalkeeper who has appeared most often in the "Soccer Action" team of the week.

This week's top goalkeeper is Nigel Lowndes of Brisbane Lions. Martyn Crook (W.A) leads in the voting.



Queensland v New Caledonia

Queensland plays against New Caledonia in Brisbane on Sunday.

The team is: Whart, Potter, Perry, Wilkinson, Pimblett, Coyne, Kelso, Low (Clyde), Lowndes, Hermitson, Bennett, Brennan, Hughes, Lawrie (Lions).

On the following Tuesday night New Caledonia plays Lions and on the Thursday, Queensland State League plays the tourists.

The State League side is: Tony Scanlan (Lions), John Ferguson, Glen Huntly, Mark Apson, Steve Dolan, Tony Bailey (Grange Thistle), Phil Thompson, Dave Costa (Mt Gravatt), Leon Wilson, Jeff Dunn, John Dunn (Ipswich Utd), Bill Amey, Tom Walton (Townsville Utd), Paul Bevan (Frenchville Rockhampton), Alan Marley (St George).



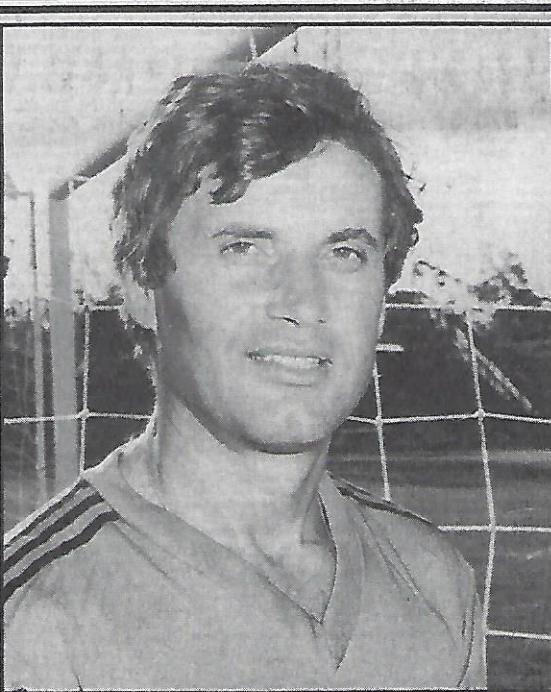
Sammy Wright takes a desperate swing at the ball while lying on the ground. At right is his Hellas team mate Alan Evans and behind the anonymous legs lies Marconi goalkeeper Allan Maher. Picture by STEVE CHATZIS.

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Rale Rasic

about

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'Berg's blitz

NEWCASTLE 3
HEIDELBERG UTD. 3

Ground: International Sports Centre.
Weather: Fine.
Ground condition: Firm.
Cautions: K. Taylor 79th minute.

Crowd: 10,134.

Referee: Bill Jones 7.

A sensational two goals in a one minute spell with less than 15 minutes to go, enabled Heidelberg to salvage a draw with Newcastle at the International Sports Centre.

The goals stunned the 10,000 crowd into silence after Newcastle ran up a 3-1 lead and looked in no danger of losing a point.

Indeed, optimists were talking about the possibility of Newcastle receiving their first bonus point for the year.

When Ken Boden put the locals 3-1 up in the 48th minute, Heidelberg almost looked as if they excepted defeat, but a slight slackening of pressure in the next 12 minutes enabled the visitors to put their game together, possibly for the first time during the match.

It was Jim Benson who started the revival with some good passing work in the midfield and when winger Gary Cole was making himself available up front, together with Branko Buljevic displaying some of the clever touches of which we know he is capable.

In a scrimmage in the Newcastle area in the 76th minute after the defence failed to clear, the ball rolled to Jim Tansey, who had no difficulty in slotting it home.

From the kick off, the ball was intercepted by Pat Bannon, who made ground before sending Gary Cole through the middle where he had no trouble waltzing around Phil Dando, who had raced out of his goal. This put Heidelberg back on level terms.

It was unfortunate for Newcastle who were the better side for at least three parts of the game.

In the first half, especially, Newcastle led the Heidelberg back four merry dances and the two-one score at half time certainly flattered the visitors.

Senkalski, who had a magnificent first half, put the locals ahead in the eighth minute.

After Heys forced Tansey into error, the ball rolled loose and the youngster pounced on it to beat Banovic with a diagonal shot.

It was not long before Newcastle went two up and once again, it was Senkalski who started the move.

This time, he dispossessed Jim Rooney and made good ground before finding Col Curran and the ex-international, whose ability to find players with long accurate diagonal passes has not diminished over the years, this time found Graham Heys on the right.

Heys' right foot shot went in off the far upright.

At that stage, a bonus point was a distinct possibility because Newcastle continually managed to get players behind the defence, which at that stage, looked very square and disorganized.

It was Heidelberg which scored in the 37th minute.

From an obviously well rehearsed corner taken by Jim Rooney the ball found Branko Buljevic's head on the near post and his flick seemed to baffle everyone and cross the line.

Newcastle's problem once again manifested itself in the lack of experience and inability of some of the younger players to pace their game to last the 90 minutes.

The last forty minutes saw a notable drop in the work rate of the midfield.

But taking all the facts into consideration, this is still the most exciting midfield Newcastle has fielded.

MARCONI 1
CANBERRA 1

Ground: Bosley Park
Crowd: 3275
Referee: Henry Witschko 9
Yellow cards: Milovanovic, McLaren (CC), Prskalo (M), Kawaleva (CC)
Goals: Byrne (CC), Krcevic (M).

Marconi, the runaway League leaders, played more constructive soccer than in their recent outings to dominate proceedings for most of the game, but failed to show their usual flair in front of goal. In the end it took one of the most brilliant moves seen in Park to pierce a well



'New look' APIA

APIA 3
CANBERRA 0

Crowd: 3728.
Weather: warm-sunny.
Ground: Wentworth Park.
Cautions: Reed (yellow card).
Goals: Reed 2, Butler.
Referee: Witschko 8.

The influence of the coaches' backgrounds was very evident in the clash between APIA and Canberra City, won 3-0 by the Sydney club.

Despite a liberal sprinkling of British players in both teams, APIA, under Englishman Ray Richards, played an old-fashioned English long-ball game using two wingers, John Vernon and Terry Butler and twin strikers Elwyn Roberts and Ken Reed.

Canberra, under its Argentinian boss, Vic Fernandez, used the close inter-passing style typical of South America.

The bumpy Wentworth Park surface was more suitable to APIA's long ball game and they dominated the early exchanges.

The pattern of the first half was set in the fourth minute when in the APIA wing cross was mis-headed by Canberra left back Keni Kawaleva straight to Ken Reed, who slotted the ball home.

Thereafter, APIA launched numerous wing attacks, especially down the left, with left back Brian O'Donnell, linking continually with Vernon to send over a supply of crosses.

On the other wing, Canberra's left back Kawaleva got himself in all sorts of trouble making himself unavailable up front, together with Branko Buljevic displaying some of the clever touches of which we know he is capable.

In a scrimmage in the Newcastle area in the 76th minute after the defence failed to clear, the ball rolled to Jim Tansey, who had no difficulty in slotting it home.

From the kick off, the ball was intercepted by Pat Bannon, who made ground before sending Gary Cole through the middle where he had no trouble waltzing around Phil Dando, who had raced out of his goal. This put Heidelberg back on level terms.

It was unfortunate for Newcastle who were the better side for at least three parts of the game.

In the first half, especially, Newcastle led the Heidelberg back four merry dances and the two-one score at half time certainly flattered the visitors.

Senkalski, who had a magnificent first half, put the locals ahead in the eighth minute.

After Heys forced Tansey into error, the ball rolled loose and the youngster pounced on it to beat Banovic with a diagonal shot.

It was not long before Newcastle went two up and once again, it was Senkalski who started the move.

This time, he dispossessed Jim Rooney and made good ground before finding Col Curran and the ex-international, whose ability to find players with long accurate diagonal passes has not diminished over the years, this time found Graham Heys on the right.

Heys' right foot shot went in off the far upright.

At that stage, a bonus point was a distinct possibility because Newcastle continually managed to get players behind the defence, which at that stage, looked very square and disorganized.

It was Heidelberg which scored in the 37th minute.

From an obviously well rehearsed corner taken by Jim Rooney the ball found Branko Buljevic's head on the near post and his flick seemed to baffle everyone and cross the line.

Newcastle's problem once again manifested itself in the lack of experience and inability of some of the younger players to pace their game to last the 90 minutes.

The last forty minutes saw a notable drop in the work rate of the midfield.

But taking all the facts into consideration, this is still the most exciting midfield Newcastle has fielded.



Goal of year

SOUTH MELBOURNE 1

MARCINI 2

Scorers: Marconi - Henderson 33rd, Krcevic 70th, Stu Molt - Ristovski 57th.
Ground - Middle Park.
Weather - cold, with drizzling rain.

Referee - Jack Johnston

Goals: Lindsay (Marc.).

Cautions - About 5000.

This was not one of Marconi's best performances. Melbourne fans have come to expect more from the mighty Sydney team which has beaten Heidelberg 8-1 and Footscray 5-0 here in past matches.

However, at least the fans were treated to a few moments of magic from 'expatriate' Eddie Krcevic, who played with Essendon Croatia last year.

While Peter Sharne laboured with the effects of an ankle injury and Mark Jankovic failed to catch the eye as he usually does, Krcevic impressed with his speed, work rate and his winning goal, scored with a spectacular header which would qualify for any "goal of the year" award.

This defeat sent South Melbourne crashing to the bottom of the ladder, but at the same time, despite the absence of injured Andrew and suspended Stuart Baxter.

Kiri Kyriakoulias, playing his first full match, did a sound job in a difficult position, against some of the best forwards in Australia.

But the star of the South was left back Tony Turner, the man over whom South lost three points early in the season because the club did not register him properly.

Marcini, transferred from J.I.L.T., transferred from J.I.L.T., for \$12,000 during the week, scored a goal in his South Melbourne debut and ran well off the ball, ever-alert for the slightest chance.

Alun Evans worked his guts out as usual, battling to try to get the many crosses aimed at him. If South is going to continue playing this way, as least Evans should have a man next to him to give the ball to, so that he did the 57th minute when Ristovski lashed the ball home after Evans had brought it down.

Scheinfuss was pleased with the result but added that his team could do much better. "A lot of players are capable of more than they have been showing in recent weeks."

"With six games to go, every team is trying to knock off the leaders, to every match like a grand final for us, which makes some of the players nervous. But we're still points above now, and there's no reason why we will slip the way it did last year."

Marconi easily had gone into the lead against South Melbourne as the result of a fine run by Krcevic in the 20th minute of Sunday's match.

Goalkeeper Peter Laumets managed only to block Krcevic's shot at the near post and as the ball ran free, Jankovic tried to back heel it into the net.

Peter Sharne raced to the ball to head it over the line but full back Mike Pye who was playing after a bout of illness, got there first to prevent the goal.

Overall, however, APIA was more aggressive and more dangerous in attack with most scoring from crosses which brought chances in the box and on the edge of the penalty area to players following up.

This aggression paid off for midfielder McGinn late in the second half as he bullocked his way through the middle and a shot from 18 yards, which took a deflection and went into the net at the far post for the third goal.

Canberra had most of its chances through the middle of the APIA defence, using tight dribbles and wall passes which occasionally exposed the frailty of APIA's strong central defenders Jim Demsey and Peter Wilson, who, while dominating in the air, were not so comfortable on the ground.

It will be interesting to see whether APIA coach, Ray Richards will continue with this new style, and attacking formation which was a switch from his previous 4-4-2 strategy.

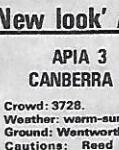
It is the style the club used during its halcyon days in State league.

All the APIA players did well, with Terry Butler and Bobby McGinn excelling.

Krcevic's winning goal was scored 20 minutes from the end, and what a goal it was! Prskalo took a free kick from 40 metres, Krcevic jumped towards the ball and back headed it home.

While West Adelaide looked dangerous for Canberra but should have put at least one of his three good chances away.

John Brown was a cultured figure at the back of the Canberra defence.



West jolted

WEST ADELAIDE 0

SYDNEY CITY 2

Scorers: Own goal Tymczyszyn 81.
Cautions: Honeyman (West).
Ground - Hindmarsh Stadium.

Referee - T. Bošković 10.

Goals: Millman (BL).

Lions met for the ninth time since the PSL began and produced their most classic encounter yet with a tremendous scoreless draw at Perry Park.

Obviously, the result did not favor Brisbane City, who were expected to win easily, yet one point is better than none.

It was a match of missed chances as both sides had ample opportunities to score the all important goal in a thrilling second half.

City's defence was under considerably more pressure than it has been in recent matches but, naturally, players like Tony Brennan, Barry Fairbrother and Ronnie Millman were able to produce something a little extra against their arch rivals.

Brennan had as effective with his finishing as he was earlier in the season, Lions might well have wrapped up the game midway through the second half.

City gradually started to get on top in the last 15 minutes, but twice Barry Kelso missed gilt-edged chances, when he broke away on the left, and Bobby Campbell spurned an open goal to loft a shot just over the bar.

But the missed chances only served to keep the pot boiling and there were some great individual battles, particularly between Campbell and Col Bennett and Millman and John Coyle in the midfield.

City players like Frank Pimblett were not as dominating as might have been expected but the simple answer is that they were never allowed to be.

Contributing in small ways to the blank scoreboard were faultless displays by the goalkeepers, Kim Wishart (City) and lions' Nigel Lowndes.

There were plenty of half chances for both teams in the first 20 minutes but City possibly had the best opportunity after a McGinn corner, when a Poter cross finished up bouncing conveniently for Kevin Lowndes, who charged in but headed over.

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Craig Wallace did not have a happy match at rightback for Lions yet, strangely, he almost scored twice near the end of the half. John Ogden took a corner and Wallace whistled a booming drive inches over the bar from out wide.

The high point of the match came in a spell of 10 minutes, 14 minutes into the second half when either side could have scored.

It began when John Wilkinson hanged a great shot from the left which Lowndes did well to save.

Only two minutes later, Brennan broke away from Adelaide City holding the ball and pitched himself forward to smother.

Kelsos broke down the middle, to split the Bennett-Lawrie combination and found the ball to the far post. Lowndes did his job expertly.

Then the ever present Perry produced a similar move to send Kelso away on the left but this time Lowndes did well to save.

Lions replaced Wallace with László and moved Jim Hermiston back to rightback and, shortly after, City used up all their acres by substituting Lowndes with Gaffney and Brusasco.

László had not been there long and he replaced Brennan with the chance to use his pace but Wishart came out well to concede a corner.

In the 71st minute, Brennan missed possibly the chance of the match when Fairbrother's aggression presented a virtual open goal but Brennan missed and wasted his great chance.

While only minutes later Villani made a fine break, on the right before pushing the ball low into the area. Munro flicked on for Marwe who made no mistake from two metres.

Only four minutes later City scored again. Villani made a fine break, on the right before pushing the ball low into the area. Munro flicked on for Marwe who made no mistake from two metres.

Against the run of play, Scheinfuss perfectly to head clear, but at the last minute ducked and let the ball go over his head. Fraser expected Utješevic to head the ball away, and was caught as Ljilje raced in to head home after the ball had bounced.

Against the run of play, Cotton scored a magnificent goal when he received a throw in, sold a dummy to Jovicic, then blasted home a shot past Potter from an angle.

A minute from the end, Tom Mihaljević shrugged off a half-hearted challenge from Jovanović, rounded Iloski in the area and cut the ball back to John O'Shea. His shot was blocked by Potter, but Cotton tucked home the rebound.

the left, Marconi players failed to clear the ball away and it fell for Canberra replacement player Bailey who did not expect such a chance and shot wide from some eight metres.

In the end it was a just result, with both sides happy to get a point. Canberra City was happy to become the first side to take the points from the top tier (beating them 3-1 in Canberra earlier this year).

Marconi coach Les Scheinfuss realising that Canberra has become a regular bogey team for the Fairfielders, was happy to take a point and further stretch the lead at the top of the Phillips League. - ALEX VESIC

Lions roar
BRISBANE CITY 0
SYDNEY CITY 0

LIONS ROAR

SYDNEY CITY 0

BRISBANE LIONS 0

Ground - Perry Park, Crowd 4445. Weather - Fine and Slight rain.

Referee - Bezeligh 8.

The theory that skilful soccer cannot be played at Perry Park because of a poor surface was erased after the visit by Adelaide City to this stronghold of Rugby League.

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City players like Frank Pimblett were not as dominating as might have been expected but the simple answer is that they were never allowed to be.

Olympic continued to play well for almost a quarter of an hour and almost scored through a László when a Poter cross finished up bouncing conveniently for Kevin Lowndes, who charged in but headed over.

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Under a spell

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1

ADELAIDE CITY 2

Goals: Bell penalty 10; J.

Nyshohus, Marwe (AC);

Ground: Pratten Park.

Crowd: 3250.

Referee: Bezeligh 8.

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Rosario Rampanti

Each decade enthusiasts hope that soccer is about to make a breakthrough and take over as the number one football code in Australia. The numbers playing are there and more parents turn their children to the round ball game.

Yet, with the '80s almost upon us, soccer remains in the shadows of 'League' and 'Rules'. The major reason for this is the standard of our game which is just not good enough yet to win a mass audience.

So exactly how good is Australian soccer?

4th Division: Cally's right



Canberra and ex-Liverpool star, Ian Callaghan, says the Philips League is of the standard of the English Fourth Division and I agree with him.

The standard of the various State Leagues is about that of the better English amateur soccer.

Callaghan, who was playing last season in the lower divisions of the English football league with Swansea, is in a

good position to judge our standard.

Despite the great improvements brought about by the introduction of the Philips League the greatest handicap to the progress of the game in Australia remains our relatively low playing standard.

The mass of Australians compare it unfavourably with the top soccer they see from overseas on television.

No amount of pre-match promotional gimmicks can impress the players when they play the field.

The long term solution is a systematic and intensive development of our best young talent.

The proposed introduction of the Philips youth league would be a big help. A short-term solution is for the Philips League clubs to introduce

more top overseas talents into their teams.

More players such as Ivo Prskalo, Ralph Coates, Roberto Vieri, Dixie Deans, Jim Hampson and Rosario Rampanti must be brought to this country.

These players may be 30, sometimes older but they were all First Division stars in their own countries and certainly they improve the standard here and set an example of skill for all players to imitate.

Every Philips League club would do well to have two such players in its first team line-up.

They would cost money, perhaps up to \$50,000 each, though some can be got for less. The money is money of our clubs and spending \$300,000 on their soccer this season.

A \$50,000-investment in this type of player would be better than the \$500-\$10,000 clubs are spending on overseas players of more limited ability.

The local Australian player in Philips League is now on a par with the import from non-league clubs, First and Second division reserve teams and lower division teams who are still coming into this country in big numbers.

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I agree, but only if they are of a top calibre, comparable to the type of top imported player just discussed.

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and certainly better than coaches of lower achievement overseas.

I certainly do not agree with Mr Papasavas that there are only three to four good coaches in this country.

As we are developing many good local players such as Mark Jankovics, John O'Shea, Greg Woodhouse ... Carl Villani, John Davies, and Joe Palinkas, so are we developing good coaches.

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Towns such as Wollongong and Hobart and areas which lie between them and Newcastle, should be able to support clubs which could attract big support and money.

Money will attract more TOP overseas stars. We probably never had more than three in a team.

It would also provide the means whereby our players would be allowed time off in the afternoons to train — a step that would overnight boost the standard of the game.

Australian soccer is assured of gradual, evolutionary improvement.

But it will take the intervention of men of ability, vision and ambition to see it suddenly take off in the '80s.

Ristovski 'victimised'

Mendo Ristovski has blamed in-fighting among players for Footscray's JUST's poor showing this season and warned that the trouble-makers are jeopardising the future of the club.

Ristovski spoke out soon after his \$12,000 transfer from JUST to South Melbourne, which was the direct result of the unrest within the team.

"I had no future with Footscray," said Mendo emphatically. "I grew up with the club, but after 15 years I came to the end of the road."

"I was unhappy with many things that were going on and this was made worse when certain players started picking on me. I was a target for one of the little groups within the team and this pushed me down even further."

"The victimisation was totally unfair but it went on and created a lot of ill-feeling."

The speedy winger, who has played only three full games in the past two months, said the Footscray committee should act on the player problems instead of ignoring them.

"During the pre-season, Footscray played some great soccer and was set for a good season," said Mendo. "However many new players were brought to the club and soon the trouble started."

"Footscray has the talent to



Mendo Ristovski takes a corner against Marconi last Sunday.

By KYLE PATTERSON

be a good side, but you can see how the trouble has affected the team. Footscray should not have to struggle near the bottom of the ladder."

"The committee must change its ways and do something before too much damage is done."

Mendo accused the committee of being pushed around by certain players and groups.

"The attitude of several players is unbelievable," he said. "They will come to training at times, and when they do come, they are always injured and unable to train properly."

"The committee didn't try to stop this sort of thing and didn't act when little rival groups were formed. I didn't like what was going on."

Ristovski said the problem grew when the team was always changing.

"The team was never balanced," he said, "and this didn't help much at all, it gave the group something to argue about if one of the 'members' was dropped."

"I have nothing against coach Bobby McLachlan, and we got along O.K., but I think Cedo Cirkovic could have settled the team, and returned everything to normal if he had stayed."

Ristovski's long association with Footscray has ended on an unhappy note, but the move to South Melbourne could rescue the career of the 23-year-old forward.

"I'm going to make a fresh start with South Melbourne," said Mendo. "It'll be like a junior starting out to make the grade in senior soccer. What happened in the past is gone, and I'm out to fight my way back to the top."

"The big transfer fee doesn't worry me and I don't expect any extra pressure

playing because of it. South Melbourne bought me, and I'll be trying my hardest to play good soccer. It's as simple as that."

However, Mendo admits outside pressures have affected his soccer in the past.

"I started out very young in senior soccer and had a pretty good start," he remembered. "However, people expected more and more from me every year. It wasn't good enough or some critics if I played well, I would do something spectacular, or I would be accused of going downhill."

"I put it to Mendo that many people think he has stagnated over the past two seasons. But Ristovski is a happy-go-lucky person, and such questions are dismissed with a minimum of fuss."

"I always go out on the field to do my job as best I can. Everyone sees things a different way and someone might demand I'm not doing my job properly, but that's not what I think," replied Mendo.

Even so, Ristovski will be watched even more closely by critics now that he's a \$10,000-plus player. Of course, this tag doesn't carry as much weight as it used to. Melbourne PSL clubs alone have 11 players who have been bought for \$10,000 or more.

They are: Peter Laumets, Alun Evans, Duncan Cummings, George Campbell, Ristovski (South Melbourne), Yannick Marie, John Yendorn, Jamie Paton, Jimmy Rooney and Branko Buljevic (Heidelberg Utd).

He made his soccer debut against Hong Kong in 1976, and also toured Noumea with the Victorian State squad. He has represented Victoria six times, and his only other Socceros game was against Greece in Melbourne in 1978.

However, his future plans involve gaining a place in the national team of coach Rudi Gutendorf.

"My first aim is, of course, to fight my way into the South Melbourne first team," he said. "I've got to play consistently well if I want to make a return to representative soccer."

"I consider myself to be in the running for the national team but it's up to me to work hard and earn the attention of Rudi Gutendorf."

A solid stepping stone to the Australian team is the Victorian team, coached by Len McKendry.

"No player would knock back the chance to play for Victoria," said Mendo. "I'm ambitious, and would like to play for Victoria, but it again would take plenty of hard work to get there."

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But it will take the intervention of men of ability, vision and ambition to see it suddenly take off in the '80s.

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OUT OF THE ASHES....

AEK
TOUR
1979

Now AEK

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best in
Greece

By CON
NIKOLOPOULOS

AEK (Athletic Union of Constantinople) rose from destruction.

Greece's unsuccessful advance into Asia Minor, in aid of the last depositories of Ancient and Byzantine heritage and tradition — Ionia and Constantinople — resulted in massive expulsion from Turkey of the Hellenes who until then had been residing along the coast and inland.

The refugees poured into Greece by the thousands, bringing with them the remains of their enormous properties, the surviving members of their families and also their traditional sporting interests.

As the thirst for sport grew bigger day by day, the idea of a new sporting club was conceived and in April, 1922, AEK was founded.

The newly-formed team made its debut in Piraeus against Olympiakos and won 3-2.

Players in the first team were: Kitsos, Asteris, Jeremiadis, Karagianni, Dimopoulos, Kehagias, Iliadis, Mimas, Baltas, Hatziopoulos, Paraskeas.

In 1926 AEK imported their first player from France, Costas Negropontis. The gifted striker was named captain of the team, a gesture of gratitude, for he had overlooked tempting offers from a number of florishing French clubs.

AEK was suspended from the championship in 1928. Disobeying the orders of the Hellenic Soccer Federation, AEK staged friendly games against Olympiakos, which also had been temporarily expelled from the competition for disciplinary reasons.

Their absence from the championship proved a financial disaster for the other clubs and the federation. During that season they lost two of their stars, centre half Constantiniadis and ace forward Baltas, freely transferred to Ghoudi, a suburban team.

However, AEK continued to take part in international meetings staged in Athens.

The demoralised Slavia 4-1 and walked over a Venus-Sparta combined team before being swept aside themselves by Ujpest 3-0 and Bratislava 4-3.

Meanwhile the Federation had revised its decision and shortly before the start of the 1928-1929 season AEK were reinstated in the competition.

AEK won their first honours in 1931-1932. Their dismal performances in



The games

AEK Athens' three matches in Australia are:

Sunday, August 12, 3 pm: v. Victoria at Olympic Park.

Wednesday, August 15, 8 pm: v. South Australia at Hindmarsh Stadium.

Sunday, August 19, 3 pm: v. New South Wales at Sydney Sports Ground.

The championship were followed by some brilliant exhibitions of quality soccer in the Cup games, that helped them eliminate their opponents in the qualifying round.

Their victories thrust them into the final of the Cup against Aris of Thessaloniki, a weak side they pounded ruthlessly to win 5-2.

Then they fell into lethargy and did not recover until 1938-1939, to win the double.

For the championship they scored 29 goals in 10 games, and lost only twice, both times against Apollo of Athens.

To reach the finals of

nated Apollo of Athens 3-1 (their first meeting had finished drawn at 1-1), had a bye against Olympiakos and appeared in the final against PAOK. It took them a lot of effort to defeat PAOK 3-1.

Members of the victorious side were: Rivas, Gasparis, Seltikas, Kapantais, Kontoulis, Mageiras, Vasileiou, Hatzistavridis, Tzanetis, Maropoulos, Manetas.

AEK successfully defended their title the following year, remaining undefeated in 14 games.

During that year they also scored a record 53 goals, most of them coming from talented forward Maropoulos.

The war interrupted the competition for six years. Championship games resumed in 1945, but the pre-war champions appeared to have lost their strength. They broke their silence in 1949 to win the Cup.

It was a near miracle!

Reduced to nine men early in the final against Panathinaikos, AEK fought bravely to sustain pressure. Their determination not to concede any goals forced them into desperate defence and they managed to hold Panathinaikos to a goalless draw.

The replay was quite as dramatic. AEK took

the lead through Patakas. Filaktos levelled the score in the 69th minute. The winner came in extra time, the 105th minute and it was a second goal by Patakas.

Unable to challenge for the championship title, AEK concentrated their efforts to reach the Cup finals again in 1950.

They beat Aris of Thessaloniki, 4-0 with goals coming from Ma-

rouopoulos, Goulios and Kountouri (2).

Then AEK's performances lapsed into the mediocre leaving the field clear for Panathinaikos and Olympiakos to battle for the titles.

With the old guard gradually dropping out, the need for capable replacements became increasingly apparent.

New blood started pou-

ring into the team; Nestoridis, Serafidis, Stamatidis, Sofanidis, and Kanakis, were some of the stars recruited. Nestoridis later played for South Melbourne Hellas.

The only consolation in 1950-1956 was the 1956 Cup triumph after they defeated Olympiakos 2-1, with Chaniotis and Kanakis scoring one goal each.

Continued p.8

Four of the AEK super stars whose skills will delight Australian fans this week and next, from left: Thomas Mavros, Takis Nikoaidis, Aristidis Arditoglou, and the great Mimis Domazos.

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AEK
TOUR
1979

Alan Davidson

Alan Davidson, the young South Melbourne defender/midfielder, faces another setback to his plans to win a place in the Australian national team.

A leg injury looks certain to rule Davidson out of Victoria's game against AEK at Olympic Park on Sunday.

Davidson also missed Victoria's game against Partizan Belgrade because of commitments to South Melbourne, meaning he has played for the State team since making a promising debut against Norwich City in June.

Rudi Gutendorf has watched Victoria to gauge the progress of potential

Injury a setback to Davidson's Socceroo plans

Socceroos. Jim Tansey and Tommy Cumming were rewarded with a place in the national team after impressive displays for Victoria.

Davidson's injury, sustained against Brisbane Lions at Middle Park three weeks ago, is robbing Davidson of a valuable chance to impress Gutendorf.

Victoria's midfield combination against AEK probably will be Joe Piccione, Jimmy Rooney and Joe Tront, with John Gardiner ready to step in.

The defence will remain the same, although Heidelberg Utd youngster Charlie Yankos is being

groomed by coach Len McKendry for a defensive post.

Up front, the excellent form of Gary Cole, Jamie Paton and Tommy Cumming will mean another game on the bench for Carl Gilder and Jim Williams.

Davidson's clubmates Chris Kalafatis and Peter Laumets are also in McKendry's plans.

South Australia abandoned its two-club selection system after several disappointing results. No longer are players taken solely from Adelaide City and West Adelaide.

Non-PSL players in the South Australian State squad are Maricic (Campbelltown), Smythe (Azzurri), Jacques, Kolecki and Stanczak (Polonia).

Edmund Kreft, the former Adelaide City coach now in control of the State team hopes the new blood can rejuvenate the SA team, which has hit a slump over the past 12 months.

Before that, South Australia was possibly the best State team in Australia.

The full SFA squad is:

Adelaide City — Marshall, Russell, B. Nyskohus,

Northcote, Muniz, J. Nyskohus, Kent.

West Adelaide — Crook, Jones, Boyle, Kosmina, Norris.

Polonia — Jacques, Kolecki, Stanczak.

Jamie Paton (number 19) slides to beat Sydney City's Mark Treter, who made a valiant lunge at the ball.



Edmund Kreft

Campbelltown — Mari-

cic.

Azzurri — Smythe.

South Australia will meet AEK at Hindmarsh Stadium next Wednesday at 8 pm.

The Victorian squad (with official numbers) —

1. Laumets, 2. Short, 3. Tan-

sey, 4. Yzendoorn, 5. Kokoska, 6. Davidson, 7. Tront, 8. Rooney, 9. Gilder, 10. Piccione, 11. Cumming, 12. Williams, 13. Gardner, 14. Paton, 15. Cole, 23. Banovic.

State coach McKendry said his final selection would depend on the Heidelberg Utd v Footscray PSL match on Friday, August 10.

"There are seven State players involved in that match," said McKendry, "so we'll be getting together the next day to see if anyone copped an injury. Hopefully, all the players will be right because I would like to use the same line-up as we had against Partizan."

"I'm confident of a good result against AEK, but as usual we will play and let the other team adjust to us. The match against Victoria is AEK's first of the tour, so I will not be able to watch AEK beforehand."

— KYLE PATTERSON.

Mavros



AEK goal machine Thomas volk

OUT OF THE ASHES

From page 7

permanent position in the side.

In 1966 AEK won yet another Cup without any effort at all. Their opponent did not show up for the game, and the referee declared AEK the winner 2-0.

AEK galloped to the finishing line to win the 1967-1968 championship title, with four points clear difference from arch rival Olympiakos. A record 69 goals were scored, 20 in four games.

A new page was added

to their history in 1971. Maintaining the commanding lead they gained at the beginning of the season, the snatched their fifth title, five points clear of Panionios and six points from Panathinaikos.

Current champions of Greece, AEK won their seventh title from Olympiakos who refused to line up for the deciding game, after the two teams had finished level on points.

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Nicolaou and Domazos the stars

**AEK
TOUR
1979**

NIKOLAOS CHRISTIDIS (goalkeeper) Aged 34, Chrisidis visits Australia for the third time. He was transferred to AEK from Aris of Thessaloniki following a dispute with the committee that resulted in a prolonged absence from the field. He has a very good build for the job, incomparable reflexes, discipline, courage and determination. He represented Greece 20 times and is regarded as the country's most talented goalkeeper.

LAKIS STERGIODAS (goalkeeper) Only 26 years of age, Stergioudas has been capped nine times. An impressive but inconsistent goalkeeper, he lost his position to Christidis, following a series of injuries that kept him away for long periods.

NIKOLAOS APOSTOLOPOULOS (right back) Although only 21 years old, Apostopoulos has all the qualities that make a star. He has temperament, ball control and wonderful understanding with his team mates. Joined AEK from metropolitan club, Haidari. Extremely strong, tackles effectively, and attacks with a typical forward's style.

LAKIS NICOLAOU (stopper) The captain of the team, he is a regular member of the national side. Regarded as the modest mastermind of the defence, he has superb control of the ball, good anticipation, tackles strongly and attacks with the verve and tenacity of a class forward. Capped 15 times, since he joined AEK from Atronomos of Athens, Nicolaou remains first choice in defence. In his late thirties, he has no intention of giving the game up, until his demanding Medical profession prevents him from operating successfully, on and off the field.

CHARALABOS INTZOGLOU (centre half-full back) A versatile defender in his late thirties, he can easily fill any gap in the defence line. Powerful, skilful and consistent he has gained four caps. He was transferred from Panionios, Greece's current cup holder.



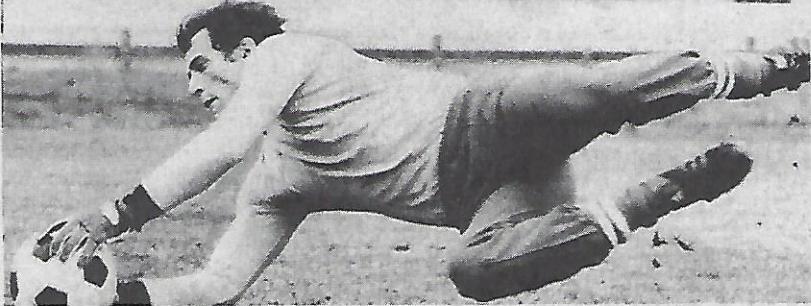
avros hits a difficult



Nicolaou — captain of AEK.

ope record

so far appeared 24 times
10 appearances in the European Cup, four in the Intercontinental Cup and eight in the Cup.
Cup: 10 games, 3 draws, 4 losses, 20 goals
in favor.
Cup: 4 games, 1 draw, 3 draws, 7 goals
in favor.
Cup: 8 games, 3 wins, 2 losses, 11 goals in favor, 11 goals lost.



AEK goalkeeper Christidis at training with the Greek national team during its Australian tour last year.

NIKOLAOS KOTOSOS (left back) Returned from his Odyssey to Philadelphia, after he had failed to establish himself with Panathinaikos and Kastoria. Aged 27, he is a rugged defender, extremely mobile, aggressive, determined and adventurous.

PETROS RAVOUSIS (centre half) Holding the centre half job in a praiseworthy style, Ravousis ranks as one of the best central defenders in Greece. Unbeatable in the air, and positive on the ground, he forms a formidable partnership with captain Lakis Nicolaou. Capped 20 times, he is aspiring to break Papaiouannou's record of 62 caps. A regular member of the team he joined AEK from Eagle of Skoda, in the Northern League.

IOANNIS MOU-
SOURIS (utility player) A Second Division-bred player, he joined AEK from Larisa, his third stoppage after Reramaikos and Ethnikos. He is 27 years old.

MIMIS DOMAZOS (midfielder) "The General" is the oldest soccer player in action in Greece. He was transferred from Panathinaikos last year, after almost 20 years of loyal service. At 39 he is due to celebrate his 500th competition game. For years a permanent member of the national team, he was capped 68 times. He visits Australia for the second time. He toured the country with Atronomos of Athens in 1977.

TAKIS NIKOLOUDIS (midfielder) A talented, controversial player, he ranks highly in Greece. He is 30 years old and was transferred from Heracles of Thessaloniki.

KI. Capped 17 times. Currently in dispute with the club, wants to return to Heracles.

DIONYSIOS TSAMIS (midfielder) Joined AEK from Panaitolikos, of the Second Division. He is 27 years of age, and has represented Greece 3 times.

TASOS CONSTANTINOU (midfielder) 29 years old, was imported from Cyprus. Skilled, with accurate ball distribution, has won three international caps.

DUSAN BAJEVIC (striker) An explosive forward who transferred from Velez of Yugoslavia.

A skilful sharpshooter, he has built a reputation as probably the best forward in Greece.

THOMAS MAVROS (winger) An orthodox winger Mavros was runner-up in this year's Golden boot award for Europe's top goal scorer.

He is 25 years old and joined AEK from Panionios for a record fee of over 15,000,000 drachmas. A rare talent, he is the target of a number of European teams that have expressed the desire to include him in their line-up. Capped 22 times, he still is a regu-

lar member of the national team.

ARISTIDES ARDIZOGLOU (forward) The most unpredictable forward yet to appear on the field in Greece. Aggressive and powerful, with an incredible jump, Ardizoglu is the unromantic forward often described as the headache of the defending team. Somewhat inconsistent in his performances, he often misses selection for regular championship games as well as the national team. He is 27 and was transferred to AEK from Apollo of Athens for a new record fee of about 20,000,000 drachmas. He has represented Greece 12 times.

FRANJO VLADIC (midfielder) The most recent acquisition of AEK from Velez of Yugoslavia, the team he served since 1968. Vladic, 29, was a member of Yugoslavia's 1974 World Cup squad and played against Poland and Sweden. He has represented Yugoslavia 30 times. His transfer to the Athenian club was arranged by Dusan Bajevic.

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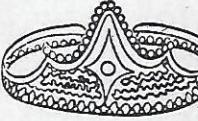
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RALE BASIC



Mimis Papaiouannou leads the AEK team of a few years ago onto the pitch for a Greek league match. Behind him are Steriouras, Mavros (obscured), Wagner, Theodoridis, Tsamis, Ardigolou, Tasos, Papadopoulos.

AEK Athens has the chance to make an admirable sporting gesture when it visits Australia this week.

Mimis Papaiouannou, 37, who scored 232 goals in 480 games during his 17 years with AEK, is playing with Victorian First Division club Western Suburbs until the end of the season.

He is AEK's all-time great player, so it would be terrific to see him in AEK colors just one more time, for the sake of the many thousands of Greeks living in Melbourne.

In other words, I hope AEK will invite Papaiouannou to play at least in the match against

Victoria at Olympic Park on Sunday. His commitments to Western Suburbs may prevent him from playing also in the games against NSW and South Australia.

I imagine the Papaioannou-Domazos partnership being re-established for old time's sake! The fans would be deeply grateful and they would show their gratitude at the turnstiles.

A recent suggestion by reporter Peter Georgiou in "Soccer Action," that

Papaioannou should be used in the Victorian team against AEK, certainly had novelty value but Papaioannou, understandably, said there was no way he would play against the club he loves.

I last saw AEK two years ago, in Athens, and the team really impressed me. Today it is even stronger, due to the presence of the great Mimis Domazos and the Yugoslav, Franjo Vladic.

Domazos, the greatest Greek player of all time, is in peak form at the moment, according to what my Greek friends tell me.

Vladic has long been one of the most skillful midfielders in Yugoslavian soccer and his countryman Dusan Bajevic, is freely described as the finest forward playing in Greece.

Bajevic, a star of the 1974 World Cup finals, is indeed a deadly striker, and among Yugoslavs all over the world, he is a soccer hero.

And, let's not forget AEK's captain, Lakis Nicolaou, a sweeper with class to burn.

AEK's tour will be a huge success. It wouldn't surprise me if it turns out to be the best-attended tour since the good old days of AS Roma and Manchester United.

NO ARGUMENT WITH RUDI
"Sydney Morning Herald" columnist Tom Hammond claimed in print recently that my article in "Soccer Action", entitled "Chickeroos," constituted direct criticism of national coach Rudi Gutendorf.

I feel flattered that Tom should take time to comment about my article, but

I must stress that it was not intended as a criticism of the national coach. He has his job to do and we must all help him to do it as best he can.

If the Australian Soccer Federation is indeed the ruling body in Australian soccer, then surely it must take responsibility for the schemozzle concerning our return game against New Zealand.

That is what my article was about.

I wanted to know whether we were afraid to play the return game because we lost the first one hence the title "Chickeroos."

I still haven't had a believable answer.

One explanation from officials is that our team is not prepared adequately for such a big match. It is too early, they say.

If we are not prepared now, why did we play the first game in Auckland? Surely, we were even less prepared then than we are now.

Be that as it may, the

point I want to make is that I have no criticism of the national coach. He has his job to do and we must all help him to do it as best he can.

TASTE OF THE BIG TIME

Youngsters will get a taste of professional soccer when they attend the Australian Soccer Camps coaching course at the Olympic Sports field from August 27 to 31.

They will become part of the Adelaide City set-up for a short time and they will train under the same conditions as the stars, using the same modern facilities.

Coaches on the course will be Dixie Deans, Agenor Muniz, Charlie Horvath and I.

BODEN REPORT IS RUBBISH

There is absolutely no truth in newspaper reports that an arrangement has been made for Newcastle's

AEK TOUR 1979



Mimis Papaiouannou

Ken Boden to join Adelaide City when his contract expires at the end of the season.

I would like to know where newspapers dig up such completely unfounded stories.

Not one single approach — either direct or indirect — has been made to Boden by Adelaide City.

Stechil the new boss



Herman Stechil

AEK coach Herman Stechil, successful young Australian, was appointed last month.

His fascinating record with Austria of Vienna impressed AEK president Loukas Barlos, who completed negotiations single handedly. Under Stechil's command Austria swept through the 1978 championship to win the title by an incredible 14 points difference from the runner-up. They bettered their record this year, winning the title 15 points.

Stechil is also credited with Austria's advance to the final of the 1977-78 European Cup Winners Cup and to the semi-final of the 1978-79 European Champions' Cup.

The implementation of his attacking policies resulted in a record 87 goals in one season.

His salary will be 140,000 drachmas a month (the equivalent of \$3,500 Aust) plus extras if A.E.K. appears in the finals of the European Champions Cup.

'BERT' TO DRAW TRIP WINNER AT AEK GAME?



Bert Newton

AEK is the first visiting soccer team to be invited by the Lord Mayor to a special reception at Adelaide Town Hall.

The reception will be on Tuesday at 5 pm.

Top show business personalities will be associated with AEK's visit.

Mr. Arch Tambakis of TCB Promotions, which is handling the tour, said he was trying to get TV star Bert Newton to draw the winner of a trip to Europe at the match between AEK and Victoria in Melbourne.

Harry Michaels will make a similar draw in Sydney and Jeremy Cordeaux in Adelaide.

The Europe trips are being made available as a prize for fans who buy tickets in advance.

AEK, accompanied by Adelaide City's former national coach Rale Basic, will make a special appearance at the giant Tea Tree Plaza regional shopping centre at Modbury in Adelaide from 12.30 pm to 1.30 pm on Tuesday.

On Monday there will be a reception for AEK at the Shandon Hotel in Tapley's Hill Road, Seaton, at 7.30 pm. Tickets at \$3 each can be bought at the door.

The Grecian Barbecue of Hindley Street, Adelaide, one of the sponsors of the game in Adelaide, will put on a lunch for AEK on Monday.

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- VICTORIAN STATE LEAGUE ROUND UP

with Kyle Patterson

ITALIAN CUP HOST

Juventus has taken over as host of the money-spinning Italian Cup from Third Division Fawkner.

After last season's Italian Cup, a new ruling was introduced stating that the winning club would host the competition the following year.

Juventus won the Italian Cup last season, and will stage this year's tournament at Partridge Reserve, Thomastown.

The Italian Cup is played for by Italian-backed clubs from all parts of Victoria. the competition is over a number of weeks, and draws large crowds.

Juventus manager Rocco Di Zio wants all clubs interested in participating to apply as soon as possible. Applications should be in writing, and sent to Juventus soccer club, P.O. Box 24, North Carlton, 3024.

Juventus wants to make several changes to the format this year, and these matters will be discussed at a meeting of club delegates at the Club Cavour, 172 Cecil St., South Melbourne.

The meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 23 starting at 8 pm.

A welcome break

**FRANKSTON 2
SUNSHINE 2**

Scorers: Frankston — Coulson pen. 12th, Swinscoe 50th sunshine — Gilmour 10th, Coyle 35th.

Ground: Centenary Park, Frankston.

FRANKSTON CITY: Peterase — V. Bannon, McCluskey, Adams, Perratt — T. Young (sent off 65th min), G. Bannon, Coulson (Cooper) — Campbell, Swinscoe, B. Young.

SUNSHINE CITY: Clarke, Dixey, Ellis, Lowe, Howe — Mussel, McRobert, R. Nelson, D. Nelson, Gilmour, Coyle injured (Laing).

Frankston City, which has gone through a mini stamp

over the past three weeks when it collected only two points, is probably looking forward to the break caused by the AEK Athens v Victoria game.

The one-week lay off gives top goalscorer Noel Mitten a chance to recover from a knee injury, and will return for the vital game against Croydon.

Frankston has the chance to recharge its batteries, and go on to seal the league. Had not Makedonia slipped up so disastrously in the past three matches, Frankston may have lost its top spot.

Sunshine City, playing with renewed enthusiasm and style, pushed Frankston City. Stewart Gilmour shot Sunshine into the lead for a second time when Vince Bannon made a bad mistake.

Frankston immediately hit back when Bruce Young raced away on a through ball, which forced full back Mike Dixey to drag him down to prevent a goal. Willie Coulson converted the penalty.

Sunshine City, which started out with an offensive 4-2-4 formation, pulled Rob Nelson back into midfield after the opening period. However, the Shiners managed to take the lead for a second time when Vince Bannon made a bad mistake.

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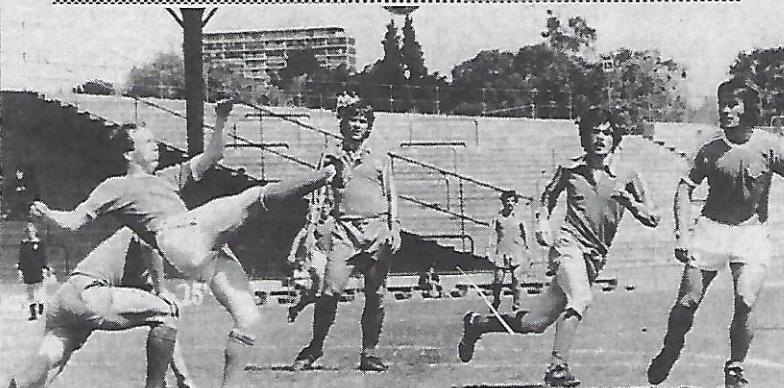
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Grant Smart walks out



Croatia full back Grant Smart (left) clears with a hefty kick against Hakoah in the top four series last year. Other players, from left, are: Mike Clarey, George Craig, Ante Bilaver.

Full back Grant Smart faces a heavy fine from Essendon Croatia after walking out on the club last week.

If Smart decides to end his self-imposed exile, he will have to front the Croatia committee before he's allowed to resume playing.

The Scottish defender, known as 'Maxwell' to his team mates, walked out after being dropped from the team for the game against Hakoah St. Kilda. He failed to attend training last week and didn't appear on Saturday when Croatia played Croydon City.

"Smart will be given the chance to explain his action," said Essendon manager Frank Burin, "but it's likely the committee will recommend a fine."

Essendon Croatia has been on the receiving end lately when it comes to discipline.

Coach Duje Zemunik was fined \$50 by the VSF disciplinary committee after a referee's report from the Frankston City v. Essendon Croatia game three weeks ago.

Former coach Brian Edgley faces a similar fine, and is expected to front the committee tonight (Wednesday).

Defender Ante Bilaver has served one week of a two-match suspension imposed after he was sent off against Frankston City.

Bilaver, who has had plenty of trouble with referees during his career, was sent off and suspended earlier this season.

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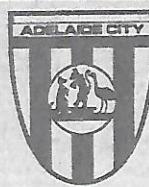
SECRETARY: G. Ursini (08) 31 0778

COACH: R. Rasic

GROUND: Olympic Sports Field, Kensington Park
332 5109 - 332 5614

COLOURS: Black & White.

SPONSORS: United Brokers
This week's match: v CANBERRA at
Olympic Sports Field (Adelaide) Sunday 2.30 pm.



BRISBANE LIONS

15 DELPHINUS ST., INALA, QLD. 4077

SECRETARY: S. Boegheim (07) 372 2891

COACH: M. Carson

GROUND: Perry Park, Abbotsford Rd.,
Mayne. (07) 52 5328.

COLOURS: All Orange with Blue Stripe.

SPONSOR: Tri-Steel Industries, Fine Steel Buildings



NO OFFICIAL MATCH THIS WEEK

BRISBANE CITY

P. O. Box 265 Broadway, Brisbane 4001
Club phone: 356 8834

SECRETARY: G. Canale bus (07) 52 4711.

COACH: N. Saftich.

GROUND: Perry Park, Abbotsford Rd., Mayne.

SPONSOR: Montrose Wines & Spirits Pty. Limited
Retail Cellar Sales, 398 Montague Rd.
West End Brisbane. Phone 44 7320.



NO OFFICIAL MATCH THIS WEEK

HEIDELBERG UNITED

P.O. BOX 8, COLLINGWOOD, 3066

SECRETARY: A. Loustas 419 2588.

COACH: M. Poulakakis

GROUND: Olympic Park, Swan St., Melb.

(03) 42 0642.

COLOURS: Black & Gold.

* GIRLS WHO WISH TO TAKE PART IN MISS ALEXANDER QUEST SHOULD CONTACT THE SECRETARY

This week's match: v FOOTSCRAY at
Olympic Park (Melbourne) Friday night 8 pm.



NEWCASTLE KB UNITED

4 NORTHWOOD ST., ADAMSTOWN HEIGHTS, N.S.W., 2289

SECRETARY: P. Trisley, Bus. (049) 24930 (049) 26 2433

COACH: A. Vest

GROUND: International Sports Centre, Turton Rd.,
New Lambton. Ph (049) 52 1224

SPONSOR: Tooth & Co. Brewers of KB Beer

This week's match: v ST GEORGE at
International Sports Centre (Newcastle) Sunday 2.30 pm
(Philips cup semi-final)



SOUTH MELBOURNE

P.O. BOX 64, ST. KILDA WEST, VIC., 3182

GENERAL SECRETARY: J. Karvess, Tel 534 5462

COACH: John Margaritis

GROUND: Middle Park, Aughtie Drive, Middle Park

COLOURS: Blue & White

Girls who wish to enter Miss South Melbourne quest please contact
N. Sagiakos 528 6196 (A.H.) P. Pallas 232 4577 (Bus), 233 2514 (A.H.).

NO OFFICIAL MATCH THIS WEEK



WEST ADELAIDE

G.P.O. BOX 1130, ADELAIDE S.A., 5001

SECRETARY: D. A. Carapetis, Bus. (08) 227 4311.

COACH: T. Forde.

GROUND: Hindmarsh Stadium, Manton St., Hindmarsh.

This week's match: v MARCONI at
Marconi Stadium (Sydney) Sunday 3pm.



A.P.I.A. LEICHARDT

38-42 FRAZER ST., LEICHARDT 2040.

SECRETARY: H. Ambrose (02) 516 1688

COACH: R. Richards

GROUND: Wentworth Park, Glebe.
Phone (02) 660 7431.

COLOURS: Burgundy & Sky Blue.

NO OFFICIAL MATCH THIS WEEK



BRISBANE LIONS

15 DELPHINUS ST., INALA, QLD. 4077

SECRETARY: S. Boegheim (07) 372 2891

COACH: M. Carson

GROUND: Perry Park, Abbotsford Rd.,
Mayne. (07) 52 5328.

COLOURS: All Orange with Blue Stripe.

SPONSOR: Tri-Steel Industries, Fine Steel Buildings



CANBERRA CITY

P.O. Box 910, Canberra City 2600

SECRETARY: Max Talbot (W) 48 8917 (A.H.) 88 5078.

COACH: V. Fernandez

GROUND: National Athletic Stadium, Bruce

SPONSOR:

BRIAN POLLOCK



This week's match: v ADELAIDE CITY at
Olympic Sports Field (Adelaide) Sunday 2.30 pm.

FOOTSCRAY

P.O. BOX 122, ST KILDA SOUTH, 3182

SPONSOR:



SECRETARY: H. Iser bus (03) 391 3231

COACH: B. McLachlan

GROUND: Olympic Park, Swan St, Melb (03) 42 0642

COLOURS: Blue White Red.



This week's match: v HEIDELBERG UNITED at
Olympic Park (Melbourne) Friday night 8 pm.

MARCONI

MARCONI ROAD, BOSSLEY PARK, N.S.W. 2176

SECRETARY: L. Sartoretto (02) 604 5222.

COACH: L. Scheinflug.

GROUND: Marconi Oval, Marconi Rd.,
Bossley Park.



This week's match: v WEST ADELAIDE at
Marconi Stadium (Sydney) Sunday 3 pm.

ST. GEORGE

84 VICTORIA AVENUE, MORTDALE, N.S.W.



GENERAL MANAGER: L. Bordacs (02) 269 2745.

COACH: R. Blanco

GROUND: St George Stadium, Rockdale

COLOURS: White, Red & Green.

This week's match: v NEWCASTLE KB UNITED at
International Sports Centre (Newcastle) Sunday 2.30 pm
(Philips cup semi-final)

SYDNEY OLYMPIC

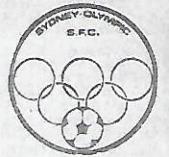
BOX A181 SYDNEY SOUTH, N.S.W., 2000

SECRETARY: N Smilas (Bus) (02) 72 0661.

COACH: J. Xipolitas

GROUND: Pratton Park, Ashfield.

SPONSOR: opata



NO OFFICIAL MATCH THIS WEEK

SYDNEY CITY

61 HALL ST., BONDI, NSW.

SECRETARY: H. K. Lakmaker (02) 30 3344
(Mornings).

663 4576 (Afternoons).

COACH: G. Chaldi.

GROUND: Wentworth Park Glebe, NSW

Phone (02) 660 7431.

SPONSOR: PRESTO SMALLGOODS and City Ford



NO OFFICIAL MATCH